
NEWS RELEASE

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Department of State



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Oct. 11, 2018

SECRETARY ARDOIN TAKES ACTION TO ALLOW FIRST RESPONDERS TO VOTE

BATON ROUGE, La.—Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin is taking action to allow first responders to exercise their right to vote due to their absence in response to Hurricane Michael. La. R.S. 18:1308(A)(j)(ii) gives the secretary of state the authority to take all actions necessary to allow registered voters, who are unable to vote during early voting or on Election Day due to out-of-state work relating to a declared emergency, the chance to vote.

“As chief elections officer, it’s my duty to make sure every registered voter in Louisiana has the opportunity to vote,” Secretary Ardoin said. “These first responders are helping rebuild communities in other states, leaving their families behind. I want to thank them for their service and assure them that their vote matters.”

First responders will need to contact the Secretary of State’s Office to request an absentee by mail ballot. The deadline for first responders to request an absentee ballot is Monday, Nov. 5 at 4:30 p.m. A voted ballot must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6.

For more information, contact the Elections Division by calling 800.883.2805 or emailing elections@sos.la.gov.

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